

September 27, 2021

Dear Senators Salawitch, Sprinkle, Lin, Hill, Gaudry, and Moaddel,

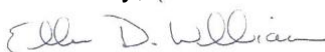
Thank you for submitting a proposal for Senate consideration. In the proposal, you requested that the October 7, 2021 Senate meeting agenda include a presentation with 15 minutes allotted to the Western Gateway project by campus advocates and the developer; 15 minutes allotted to the Western Gateway project by Faculty members who are part of the Save Guilford Woods community group; and a 10-minute question and answer period. In addition, the proposal requests that the Senate convene a task force that would be responsible for conducting an independent assessment on environmental factors, campus commitment to sustainability goals, and stormwater management, as well as assessing other potential sites for affordable graduate student housing that would not have a detrimental impact on the environment.

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) met on Monday, September 20, 2021 to consider the proposal. The role of the SEC is defined in the [University of Maryland Plan of Organization for Shared Governance](#) (the Plan), which directs the Senate to carry out the formulation and review of policies and regulations, and identifies twenty-three (23) roles and responsibilities assigned to the Senate in Article 1.3 of the Plan. Based on those criteria, the committee did not focus its review on the merits of the project itself but rather on whether the requests and concerns expressed in the proposal principally fall under the Senate's purview. Ultimately, the SEC determined that the requested presentations on and proposed assessment of the Western Gateway Project do not fall under the Senate's purview, as they would not involve an assessment of policies or regulations, and since they do not fall under any of the provisions in Article 1.3 of the Plan.

The SEC also discussed the Senate's past work associated with the Wooded Hillock. That issue cannot serve as a precedent in this case because the Senate's action associated with the Wooded Hillock did not focus on or address the specific project itself, but rather focused on the process that guides site selection for new facilities. The Senate's role in that instance was to develop a defined process for all future site selections. This process allows for neutral subject matter experts and campus constituents to serve on an ad hoc body to help identify a site when a new facility is proposed. The recommendation to create that process and establish that structure is principally within the Senate's purview, but engaging in the implementation of the process or in the review of specific individual facilities projects is well outside the scope of the Senate's role.

For the above stated reasons, the Senate Executive Committee voted unanimously that no further action should be taken on your proposal by the Senate. If you have any questions about the Senate review process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ellen D. Williams  
Chair